January 10, 1962

Dear Mr. President:

The comments on my paper "SACEUR's Instructions to SHAPE Planners," which were inclosed with your letter of 5 December, have been discussed with Secretary McNamara in considerable detail and, more generally, with Secretary Rusk. The talks were helpful to me and I hope that the two Secretaries also found them useful.

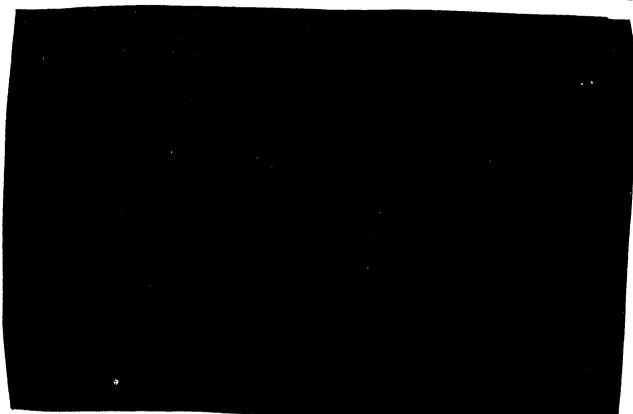
Because of the way in which this subject is developing, I have decided not to issue formal instructions to the SHAPE Planners; thus, the position paper "U.S. Policy on Military Actions in the Berlin Conflict," and the further comments thereon, will serve as general background and guidance but will not be translated into specific directions to my Allied Staff. Perhaps the most direct application of these papers will be to provide a basis for supporting the American position in the North Atlantic Council when this subject is discussed in that forum, probably next month. Since the opposition to limited actions of the type contemplated is certainly not diminishing, handling this subject will require great skill and delicacy. I am sure, however, that a generally acceptable solution will be achieved.

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Yours faithfully

LAURIS NORSTAD General USAF

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

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